

October 26, 2000

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**Missouri's unemployment rate increases slightly in September**

JEFFERSON CITY -- Layoffs of federal Census workers and employees in the construction and amusement/recreational services industries caused Missouri's unemployment rate to inch up one-tenth of a point to 2.9 percent in September, unchanged from a year ago.

Total employment increased by 5,400 in September, raising the number of working Missourians to nearly 2.9 million in September, nearly 88,000 individuals more than in September 1999. However, seasonal layoffs caused the estimated number of jobless Missourians to increase slightly by 1,500 to a total of 84,000.

Non-farm payroll employment, another measure of labor market performance, also increased in September, gaining almost 41,000 jobs. This increase is typical for the August-September period as various workers at schools and colleges return to work. Local government employment, which includes public schools, was up by nearly 30,000 jobs, while state government including colleges and universities increased by nearly 5,000 jobs.

The largest changes in the private sector were in seasonal industries. Private educational services employment increased by 12,500 jobs. Industries with decreasing employment included federal government (4,400 temporary census jobs); construction (2,400 jobs); hotels (1,900 jobs) and amusement and recreation services (1,600 jobs).

Over the past year, non-farm employment grew by 34,000 jobs, or 1.2 percent. Most of the over-the-year job growth continues to be in the service-producing sector. Service industries grew collectively by 29,500 jobs, trade grew by 7,000 jobs and government added just over 6,000 jobs since September 1999.

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment was up by 1,600 jobs over the year, with the largest growth occurring in heavy construction (1,300 jobs). Manufacturing employment lost 12,600 jobs from the total a year earlier.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES  
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES  
CURRENT MONTH (SEPTEMBER 2000), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JULY AND AUGUST 2000), AND YEAR AGO (SEPTEMBER 1999)

	SEP 2000	AUG 2000	JUL 2000	SEP 1999		SEP 2000	AUG 2000	JUL 2000	SEP 1999
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U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.1	Atchison	1.7	2.4	2.5	1.6
MISSOURI	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9	Audrain	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.1
ST. LOUIS MSA	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	Barton	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.4
Franklin	4.1	3.9	3.5	2.8	Bates	3.1	3.5	3.4	3.3
Jefferson	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.8	Benton	5.3	4.6	4.7	4.3
Lincoln	2.6	2.7	3.1	2.8	Caldwell	3.3	4.2	4.6	3.4
St. Charles	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.0	Carroll	1.9	2.9	2.5	2.6
St. Louis County	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.7	Cedar	2.8	3.1	2.9	4.0
Warren	2.5	2.4	2.3	3.3	Chariton	4.2	3.6	3.8	4.4
St. Louis City	5.7	5.9	5.2	6.1	Clark	3.2	3.4	5.2	3.3
KANSAS CITY MSA	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	Cooper	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0
Cass	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	Crawford	5.3	5.3	5.0	4.1
Clay	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.1	Dade	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.6
Clinton	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.4	Dallas	5.3	5.9	4.8	3.3
Jackson	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.4	Daviess	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.2
Lafayette	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.1	DeKalb	1.4	2.2	2.2	1.9
Platte	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	Dent	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.9
Ray	2.5	3.1	3.9	2.5	Douglas	5.3	3.8	3.3	4.4
SPRINGFIELD MSA	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.1	Dunklin	3.8	4.9	3.9	4.2

Christian	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.9	Gasconade	3.2	2.8	3.4	1.9
Greene	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.1	Gentry	2.2	2.5	2.7	1.7
Webster	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.3	Grundy	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.6
JOPLIN MSA	3.3	3.1	3.2	2.9	Harrison	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.5
Jasper	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.6	Henry	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.8
Newton	4.4	4.4	4.7	3.6	Hickory	5.5	5.6	5.8	3.8
COLUMBIA MSA	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0	Holt	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.6
Boone	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0	Howard	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.6
ST. JOSEPH MSA	2.6	2.4	2.6	3.0	Iron	6.8	5.8	5.9	6.5
Andrew	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.3	Johnson	2.4	2.5	2.5	1.9
Buchanan	2.7	2.4	2.7	3.1	Knox	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.1
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.4	Laclede	3.9	2.9	3.3	3.3
Adair	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.2	Lewis	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.3
Schuyler	1.6	2.8	2.7	2.4	Linn	9.0	7.0	5.6	9.3
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	4.2	4.5	4.1	3.4	Livingston	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.7
Butler	3.9	4.4	4.0	3.2	McDonald	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.8
Carter	3.7	3.7	4.0	3.5	Macon	3.5	3.4	4.3	2.9
Ripley	5.4	5.3	4.5	4.0	Madison	5.6	5.4	6.1	4.4
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.7	Mercer	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.5
Camden	2.6	2.0	2.2	3.0	Monroe	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.2
Miller	2.5	2.8	3.0	2.3	Montgomery	2.9	3.0	3.6	3.4
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	Morgan	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.3
Bollinger	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.4	Nodaway	0.8	0.9	1.5	0.8
Cape Girardeau	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.3	Ozark	2.9	2.8	2.5	3.3
Mississippi	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.6	Pemiscot	5.4	6.3	5.4	5.5
New Madrid	3.8	4.2	4.6	4.2	Perry	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.7
Scott	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.4	Pettis	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.2
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	1.8	2.4	2.6	1.9	Pike	2.9	3.7	3.6	3.2
Callaway	2.0	2.3	2.4	1.9	Polk	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.7
Cole	1.7	2.3	2.6	1.4	Pulaski	5.0	4.3	4.4	5.9
Moniteau	2.0	2.3	2.9	1.7	Putnam	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.6
Osage	1.7	3.0	3.0	4.2	Randolph	2.9	4.0	5.1	2.9
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	3.1	2.9	2.7	3.5	Reynolds	5.9	5.8	5.2	3.1
Howell	3.2	2.8	2.7	3.4	St. Clair	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.1
Oregon	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.4	Ste. Genevieve	2.7	2.9	3.3	2.9
Shannon	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.8	Saline	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.7
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.8	Scotland	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.1
Barry	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.9	Shelby	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.9
Lawrence	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	Stoddard	3.8	3.2	4.0	3.9
MARION-RALLS LMA	3.2	3.4	3.4	2.8	Stone	2.6	2.4	2.4	3.0
Marion	3.2	3.4	3.5	2.8	Sullivan	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.4
Ralls	3.2	3.7	3.4	3.0	Taney	2.1	1.9	2.2	1.8
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.3	Texas	5.2	5.2	5.3	8.9
Maries	2.3	3.4	3.9	2.4	Vernon	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.1
Phelps	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.2	Wayne	6.4	6.3	5.9	5.6
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	5.6	5.4	5.9	5.6	Worth	3.4	3.9	4.5	2.2
St. Francois	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.6	Wright	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.7
Washington	6.5	6.0	6.9	5.8					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS